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A Perturbative Density Matrix Renormalization Group Algorithm for Large Active Spaces

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Abstract

We describe a low cost alternative to the standard variational DMRG (density matrix renormalization group) algorithm that is analogous to the combination of selected configuration interaction plus perturbation theory (SCI+PT). We denote the resulting method p-DMRG (perturbative DMRG) to distinguish it from the standard variational DMRG. p-DMRG is expected to be useful for systems with very large active spaces, for which variational DMRG becomes too expensive. Similar to SCI+PT, in p-DMRG a zeroth-order wavefunction is first obtained by a standard DMRG calculation, but with a small bond dimension. Then, the residual correlation is recovered by a second-order perturbative treatment. We discuss the choice of partitioning for the perturbation theory, which is crucial for its accuracy and robustness. To circumvent the problem of a large bond dimension in the first-order wavefunction, we use a sum of matrix product states (MPS) to expand the first-order wavefunction, yielding substantial savings in computational cost and memory. We also propose extrapolation schemes to reduce the errors in the zeroth- and first-order wavefunctions. Numerical results for Cr_2 with a (28e,76o) active space and 1,3-butadiene with a (22e,82o) active space reveal that p-DMRG provides ground state energies of a similar quality to variational DMRG

with very large bond dimensions, but at a significantly lower computational cost. This suggests that p-DMRG will be an efficient tool for benchmark studies in the future.

1 Introduction

Achieving chemical accuracy (ca. $1\text{m}E_h$) in systems with a mix of multireference and dynamic correlations remains a challenging problem in molecular quantum chemistry. While complete active spaces (CAS) with tens of partially filled orbitals can be reliably treated by techniques such as the density matrix renormalization group (DMRG),¹⁻¹¹ reaching chemical accuracy in the subsequent description of the dynamic correlation is difficult. The most common technique to treat dynamical correlation in the multireference setting is second-order perturbation theory (PT).¹²⁻²³ However, one often finds that a second-order perturbative treatment is not powerful enough to accurately describe correlations involving some of the moderately correlated non-valence orbitals in a complex system. For example, in $3d$ transition metal systems, binding energies and exchange couplings can be substantially in error if the virtual $4d$, semi-core $3s3p$, or valence ligand orbitals, are treated only at the second-order perturbative level. The standard remedy is to include these additional moderately correlated orbitals in the multireference active space treatment. However, for complex systems this can create enormous active spaces that are inaccessible or otherwise impractical even for current DMRG methods.

Recently, selected configuration interaction (SCI) methods²⁴⁻²⁶ have experienced a significant revival.²⁷⁻³² The general idea of selected configuration interaction is quite old, dating back to the CIPSI method,²⁴ and before that, to the hand-selected configuration interaction calculations carried out in the earliest days of quantum chemistry.^{33,34} Although modern day SCI methods differ in how they select determinants, they all share a similar basic strategy. In particular, a small number of determinants are first selected for a variational treatment - in modern calculations, typically 10^6 - 10^8 determinants - and the residual correlation is

1
2
3 treated by second-order PT, most commonly using the Epstein-Nesbet (EN) partitioning.
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5 Some important recent improvements include the use of stochastic methods to evaluate the
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7 second-order energies (E_2) in order to handle large basis sets,^{31,32} as well as the develop-
8
9 ment of more systematic extrapolations with respect to the thresholds in the method. One
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11 finds that SCI methods achieve chemical accuracy in the total energy for a variety of small
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13 molecule problems using a remarkably small number of variational determinants. However,
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15 it is important to observe that the variational CI energy alone is itself usually quite poor.
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17 For example, in a heat-bath CI calculation on the chromium dimer (48e, 42o) active space³⁰
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19 popularized in DMRG benchmarks,⁸ the variational CI energy was more than 60 mE_h above
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21 the the DMRG benchmark result. Instead, it is the second order PT correction that yields
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23 the final high accuracy result. In the above case, the total energy error after using the per-
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25 turbation theory correction is reduced to less than 1 mE_h , a reduction by a factor of almost
26
27 one hundred. In other cases, corrections from PT reduce the total energy error by a factor
28
29 of 10 or more.
30

31 The remarkable accuracy of the second-order perturbation correction in selected CI stands
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33 in stark contrast to the accuracy of second-order perturbation corrections when used with
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35 complete active spaces. The physical reason for the difference is that even if the reference
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37 wavefunction is determined exactly (within the complete active space) it is *unbalanced* due to
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39 the lack of dynamical correlation. In contrast, although the variational selected CI computes
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41 only a quite approximate reference wavefunction, it is determined in a full, or at least large,
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43 space of orbitals, leading to a more balanced reference state. This suggests that the key
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45 to an accurate second-order correlation contribution involves balancing the different orbital
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47 correlations, rather than describing only the strongest correlations exactly, as in a valence
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49 CAS. This observation is independent of choosing selected CI for the reference wavefunction,
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51 and it is the motivation for this work.
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53 In the current paper, we will explore how we can use quite approximate, but balanced,
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55 variational DMRG reference wavefunctions computed in large active spaces, and correct
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them efficiently and to high accuracy, with second order PT within the same orbital space. We name this technique “perturbatively corrected DMRG” or p-DMRG. In p-DMRG, we represent both the zeroth order variational reference wavefunction $|\Psi^{(0)}\rangle$ as well as the first order perturbative correction $|\Psi^{(1)}\rangle$ in terms of matrix product states (MPS). Note that there are advantages to using a MPS representation, rather than a determinantal expansion, of the variational reference wavefunction. The MPS representation allows us to construct compact strongly correlated wavefunctions even where there is little to no determinantal sparsity, for example in systems with many coupled spins, where there is little sparsity in the coupled low-spin configurations of the system. A second reason is that volume extensivity of the energy is achieved by a matrix product state with a cost $\propto e^{V^{2/3}}$ rather than $\propto e^V$ in configuration interaction. Asymptotically, this makes the variational MPS representation exponentially more compact than a variational determinant expansion, and in practice, allows for a larger number of spatially separated orbitals to be treated.³⁵

Relative to a standard variational DMRG calculation, the cost savings in p-DMRG arise from two sources. First, as described above, the zeroth order wavefunction can be computed using a bond dimension M_0 much smaller than is needed to fully converge the variational DMRG calculation. Second, although the bond dimension M_1 for the first order wavefunction still needs to be quite large, the first order wavefunction is determined by minimizing the Hylleraas functional,^{18,36}

$$\mathcal{L}[|\Psi_1\rangle] = \langle\Psi_1|(\hat{H}_0 - E_0)|\Psi_1\rangle + 2\langle\Psi_1|\hat{V}|\Psi_0\rangle, \quad \hat{V} = \hat{H} - \hat{H}_0. \quad (1)$$

which is less expensive than minimizing the variational DMRG energy, because the zeroth order Hamiltonian \hat{H}_0 can be chosen to be simpler than the full Hamiltonian \hat{H} . For example, if \hat{H}_0 is the Fock operator or the Epstein-Nesbet Hamiltonian, then the computational cost to evaluate the Hylleraas functional is a factor of K (where K is the number of orbitals) less than that to evaluate the variational DMRG energy. In addition, since in second-order PT,

only the matrix element $\langle \Psi_1 | \hat{V} | \Psi_0 \rangle$ needs to be computed (instead of $\langle \Psi | \hat{H} | \Psi \rangle$ in standard DMRG) we can save a further factor of M_1/M_0 in cost, where we assume M_1 is similar to the bond dimension used in a converged variational DMRG calculation, and $M_1 \gg M_0$. The p-DMRG method can still be made exact by gradually increasing M_0 , which thus plays a role analogous to the variational selection threshold in SCI methods. This opens up the possibility to perform extrapolations, similar to those in SCI and in variational DMRG.

It is important to note that we expect p-DMRG to be useful for a different class of problems than standard DMRG based multi-reference perturbation theory such as DMRG-CASPT2^{17,23} or DMRG-NEVPT2.^{18,19,21,22} In particular, we believe the method should be used to target high accuracy calculations (to say $1mE_h$ in the total energy) either in a large active space, including the intermediately correlated orbitals, or to obtain benchmark total energies in small problems, at a cost that is significantly less than that of variational DMRG. This is very different from providing a qualitative treatment of dynamical correlation in very large basis sets, which is the focus of standard DMRG based multi-reference PT. Note that p-DMRG differs also from the similarly named DMRG inner space perturbation theory (DMRG-isPT),³⁷ where the PT is only used to reduce the cost of the Davidson diagonalization in the DMRG sweeps.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In Sec. 2.1, we first briefly summarize DMRG in the MPS language and then introduce the p-DMRG algorithm. Two particular pieces needed to establish p-DMRG as an accurate and efficient alternative to variational DMRG are then discussed in the following sections. Specifically, Sec. 2.2 discusses the choice of \hat{H}_0 , which is crucial for obtaining high accuracy, while Sec. 2.3 introduces a way to tackle the large bond dimension M_1 needed to represent the first order wavefunction by using a sum of MPS representations. After describing standard benchmark calculations for C_2 and Cr_2 in small active spaces, we carry out two larger benchmark studies using p-DMRG in Sec. 3: one for Cr_2 in an active space with 28 electrons in 76 orbitals generated by a cc-pVDZ-DK basis, denoted by the notation (28e,76o), and the other for butadiene in an active

space with (22e,82o) generated by a cc-pVDZ basis. Both sets of calculations demonstrate that in practical problems p-DMRG is substantially more efficient than variational DMRG, obtaining the same benchmark accuracy with greatly reduced cost. Conclusions and outlines for future directions are presented in Sec. 4.

2 Theory

2.1 Perturbative density matrix renormalization group (p-DMRG)

Here we first recapitulate the DMRG algorithm in the MPS language. Interested readers are referred to recent reviews, e.g., Refs.^{11,38,39} for details.

A generic FCI wavefunction can be written in Fock space as

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{n_1 \cdots n_K} \Psi^{n_1 n_2 \cdots n_K} |n_1 n_2 \cdots n_K\rangle, \quad (2)$$

where $|n_1 n_2 \cdots n_K\rangle$ is the occupation basis in the Fock space of K spatial orbitals, and $n_k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ for the local configuration basis $\{|0\rangle, |k_\beta\rangle, |k_\alpha\rangle, |k_\alpha k_\beta\rangle\}$, respectively. It can be decomposed into a sequential product of matrices associated with different orbitals via successive singular value decompositions (SVDs),

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{n_1 \cdots n_K} A^{n_1}[1] A^{n_2}[2] \cdots A^{n_K}[K] |n_1 n_2 \cdots n_K\rangle, \quad (3)$$

where $A^{n_k}[k]$ are matrices and the symbol $A[k]$ will be used to represent the site tensor as a collection of matrices $A^{n_k}[k]$ for different n_k . The dimensions of $A^{n_k}[k]$ are usually referred to as the bond dimensions, and these take a maximal value of $O(4^{K/2})$ in the middle of the orbital chain.³⁸ The MPS form (3) can be used as a variational ansatz by restricting the maximal bond dimension to a given M , which is then the single parameter that controls the accuracy of the approximation. Clearly, as M approaches $O(4^{K/2})$, the ansatz becomes exact.

However, the importance of the MPS ansatz is that for Hamiltonians with local interactions in one dimension, the entanglement encoded in an MPS with an M with only a very weak dependence on K , is sufficient to accurately represent ground and low-energy eigenstates. For real molecules which have a more complicated entanglement structure, the required M is generally much larger than that used in one-dimensional models.⁵

The DMRG algorithm provides an efficient way to variationally optimize an MPS that optimizes the tensors site-by-site. For simplicity, we consider here only the single site sweep algorithm. When we optimize the site tensor $A[k]$ at site k , the MPS can be recast into a *mixed-canonical* form as

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{n_1 \cdots n_K} L^{n_1}[1] \cdots L^{n_{k-1}}[k-1] C^{n_k}[k] R^{n_{k+1}}[k+1] \cdots R^{n_K}[K] |n_1 n_2 \cdots n_K\rangle, \quad (4)$$

where the set of $L[k]$ are in left canonical form ($\sum_{n_k} L^{n_k\dagger} L^{n_k} = I$) and the set of $R[k]$ are in right canonical form ($\sum_{n_k} R^{n_k} R^{n_k\dagger} = I$). This choice of the left and right canonical gauges makes the renormalized configuration basis $\{|l_{k-1} n_k r_k\rangle\}$ orthonormal, where

$$|l_{k-1}\rangle = \sum_{n_k} (L^{n_1}[1] \cdots L^{n_{k-1}}[k-1])_{l_{k-1}} |n_1 \cdots n_{k-1}\rangle, \quad (5)$$

$$|r_k\rangle = \sum_{n_k} (R^{n_{k+1}}[k+1] \cdots R^{n_K}[K])_{r_k} |n_{k+1} \cdots n_K\rangle, \quad (6)$$

that is, $\langle l'_{k-1} | l_{k-1} \rangle = \delta_{l'_{k-1} l_{k-1}}$ and $\langle r'_k | r_k \rangle = \delta_{r'_k r_k}$. The central part $C^{n_k}[k]$ is the wavefunction to be optimized at site k , and it can be obtained by solving a standard configuration interaction problem in the renormalized configuration basis $\{|l_{k-1} n_k r_k\rangle\}$,

$$\sum_{lnr} H_{l'n'r',lnr}[k] C_{lnr}[k] = E C_{lnr}[k], \quad (7)$$

where $H_{l'n'r',lnr} = \langle l'_{k-1} n'_k r'_k | \hat{H} | l_{k-1} n_k r_k \rangle$ is the matrix representation of the Hamiltonian \hat{H} and $C_{lnr}[k]$ is the vectorized version of the tensor $C_{l_{k-1} r_k}^{n_k}[k]$. The multiplication between

$H_{l'n'r',lnr}$ and C_{lnr} dominates the cost of a DMRG calculation, and scales as $O(K^3M^3)$ in total per sweep.^{3,5} This scaling can be understood by noting that $H_{l'n'r',lnr}$ can always be written as a sum of $O(K^2)$ direct product terms $H_{l'n'r',lnr} = \sum_{\beta} O_{l'n',ln}^{\beta} O_{r'r}^{\beta}$ for a generic second quantized Hamiltonian with $O(K^4)$ terms, via the complementary operator technique,^{3,5,40} such that the matrix vector product can be formed by $O(K^2)$ independent matrix multiplications

$$\sigma_{l'n'r'} = \sum_{lnr} H_{l'n'r',lnr} C_{lnr} = \sum_{\beta} \left(\sum_r \left(\sum_{ln} O_{l'n',ln}^{\beta} C_{lnr} \right) O_{r'r}^{\beta} \right). \quad (8)$$

The cost for each multiplication scales as $O(M^3)$, thus the cost for forming $\sigma_{l'n'r'}$ scales as $O(K^2M^3)$ at a given site k . In combination with the cost for building the necessary operators $O_{l'n',ln}^{\beta}$ and $O_{r'r}^{\beta}$ for representing $H_{l'n'r',lnr}$, the computational cost for the standard DMRG algorithm using the quantum chemistry Hamiltonian scales as $O(K^3M^3 + K^4M^2)$,^{3,5} which, unlike FCI, is a polynomial in K , if M can be kept constant as a function of K , as is the case in certain situations, such as in pseudo-one-dimensional molecules.

However, to describe dynamical correlation in a small molecule over length scales too short for locality of correlations to emerge, M needs to scale as $O(K)$ to capture the local double excitations.⁸ This renders the total scaling effectively $O(K^6)$. This limits the number of orbitals that can be treated accurately with reasonable computational resources and time. For instance, as shown in Ref.,⁸ a state-of-the-art DMRG calculation on butadiene with an active space (22e,82o) took one day on 42 cores for a single sweep with $M = 3000$. In this scenario, the correlation treatment offered by the MPS, where every orbital is treated on an equal footing, is too flexible. Thus, a less general, but more efficient formulation, is clearly desired.

In the p-DMRG method, we assume that an MPS with small M_0 has been optimized by the above standard DMRG algorithm, and it is used as the zeroth-order wavefunction $|\Psi^{(0)}\rangle$. Then, the first-order wavefunction $|\Psi^{(1)}\rangle$ can be obtained by minimizing the Hylleraas

functional (1), which in the exact case is equivalent to solving the first-order equations,

$$(\hat{H}_0 - E_0) |\Psi^{(1)}\rangle = -Q\hat{H} |\Psi^{(0)}\rangle, \quad Q = 1 - P, \quad P = |\Psi^{(0)}\rangle \langle \Psi^{(0)}|. \quad (9)$$

Note that although the bond dimension of $|\Psi^{(0)}\rangle$ is chosen small, the bond dimension M_1 of $|\Psi^{(1)}\rangle$ arising from (9) can be substantially larger, for example, as large as the bond dimension used in a converged variational DMRG calculation. In the following sections, we will discuss different definitions of the zeroth-order Hamiltonian \hat{H}_0 , and how to solve the first-order equation efficiently for the large bond dimensions arising in $|\Psi^{(1)}\rangle$. Note also that although only ground states are considered in the present work, it is straightforward to extend the p-DMRG formalism to excited states. In this case, state-averaged DMRG can be used to compute the zeroth order wavefunctions for the excited states and the projector $P = |\Psi^{(0)}\rangle \langle \Psi^{(0)}|$ should be replaced by $P = \sum_i |\Psi_i^{(0)}\rangle \langle \Psi_i^{(0)}|$ to avoid intruder state problems.

2.2 Choices of zeroth-order Hamiltonian \hat{H}_0

There are several criteria that a good partitioning of \hat{H} must satisfy. First, in order to reduce the computational cost, \hat{H}_0 should be as simple as possible. The Fock operator or the diagonal part of \hat{H} in the determinant space used in the EN partition both satisfy this criterion, while the simplest projective definition $\hat{H}_0 = P\hat{H}P + Q\hat{H}Q$ does not. Second, the partition should be free of intruder state problems. The Fock operator generally does not satisfy this criterion (as we have numerically verified) and hence will not be discussed further. Instead, we will exclusively focus on designing \hat{H}_0 based on the idea of the EN partition, as also used in SCI+PT schemes.^{24–32} Third, the partition should give good energies at 2nd order, which requires a balanced treatment of $|\Psi^{(0)}\rangle$ and $|\Psi^{(1)}\rangle$. Fourth, to be used in a spin-adapted DMRG algorithm,⁷ we require a spin-free \hat{H}_0 . This differs from the partitioning in determinant based SCI+PT, where \hat{H}_0 does not commute with the spin squared operator \hat{S}^2 , leading to spin contamination in the first-order wavefunction.

To begin, we start with \hat{H}_0 defined as

$$\hat{H}_0 = PE_0P + Q\hat{H}_dQ, \quad (10)$$

where \hat{H}_d contains all single and double excitations which do not change the occupation numbers of spatial orbitals,

$$\hat{H}_d = \sum_i h_{ii}\hat{E}_{ii} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} (ii|jj)\hat{e}_{ijji} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} (ij|ji)\hat{e}_{ijij}, \quad (11)$$

with $\hat{E}_{ij} = \sum_{\sigma} a_{i\sigma}^{\dagger} a_{j\sigma}$ and $\hat{e}_{ijkl} = \sum_{\sigma,\tau} a_{i\sigma}^{\dagger} a_{j\tau}^{\dagger} a_{k\tau} a_{l\sigma} = E_{il}E_{jk} - \delta_{jl}E_{ik}$. \hat{H}_d defined in (11) is analogous to the zeroth order Hamiltonian in the EN partition, but it is spin-free and only block-diagonal rather than diagonal in the determinant basis, since it contains additional couplings for determinants with the same spatial occupations due to the \hat{e}_{ijij} operator in the exchange term. Numerical comparisons within a non-spin-adapted DMRG implementation⁴¹ demonstrate that \hat{H}_d and the standard EN partition provide results of very similar quality. For this form of \hat{H}_0 , when solving Eq. (9) using the DMRG sweep algorithm, the Hamiltonian and wavefunction multiplication on the left hand side (LHS) scales as $O(K^2M_1^3)$ instead of $O(K^3M^3)$ in the standard variational DMRG. The construction of the right hand side (RHS) will scale as $O(K^3M_1^2M_0)$ assuming $M_1 \gg M_0$. The cost to build the renormalized operators for the LHS is negligible, as it is only $O(K^2M_1^2)$, while the corresponding cost for the RHS is $O(K^4M_1M_0)$ in total. Thus compared to the variational DMRG calculation with a similar $M \approx M_1$, we expect a substantial reduction in cost.

In Eq. (10), we have not yet defined the zeroth-order energy E_0 . There are two natural choices. One is the DMRG energy for $|\Psi^{(0)}\rangle$, viz., $E_{DMRG}^{(0)} = \langle \Psi^{(0)} | \hat{H} | \Psi^{(0)} \rangle$, which is analogous to the choice made in SCI+PT. We observe that the zeroth order variational energy $E_{DMRG}^{(0)}$ is typically closer to the exact energy than the zeroth order energies used in SCI+PT. Thus, it is much lower than the lowest energy of the perturbors, which is the lowest eigenvalue of $Q\hat{H}_dQ$, whose eigenstates are relatively uncorrelated. This means that although this

choice of E_0 is in general numerically stable in that it is free of intruder state problems for typical M_0 (which is large enough to achieve a non-vanishing gap between the zeroth-order state and the perturbors) the correlation energy recovered is usually too small at the second order level. The other natural choice $E_d^{(0)} = \langle \Psi^{(0)} | \hat{H}_d | \Psi^{(0)} \rangle$ makes the gap smaller and hence lowers E_2 , but in this case the correlation energy can be overestimated and there is a greater probability of intruder states, because there is no guarantee that the lowest eigenvalue of $Q\hat{H}_dQ$ is larger than $E_d^{(0)}$. Therefore, in general, we expect that an interpolation $E_0(\lambda) = (1 - \lambda)E_{DMRG}^{(0)} + \lambda E_d^{(0)}$ between these two limits will provide better performance in terms of stability and accuracy.

Unfortunately, there is no a priori way to determine λ without calculation. One way to define it through a calculation, is through the optimized partitioning method,⁴² where λ is chosen to make $E_3(\lambda) = 0$ or equivalently $E_2(\lambda) + E_3(\lambda)$ stationary, while $E_0(\lambda) + E_1(\lambda) = E_{DMRG}^{(0)}$ is independent of λ . We have explored the dependence of the absolute errors of second- and third-order perturbation theories (PT2 and PT3) on λ as shown in Figure 1 for two small systems, viz., a hydrogen chain H_{10} with $R(H-H)=1.0\text{\AA}$ in a STO-3g basis⁴³ and H_2O at the equilibrium geometry⁵ in the Dunning’s DZ basis.⁴⁴ It is clear that as λ increases and $E_0(\lambda)$ approaches $E_d^{(0)}$, $E_2(\lambda)$ is lower, for the reasons discussed above. In contrast, the PT3 energy varies more slowly. However, including PT3 does not always improve the results, e.g., for H_2O , the error of PT2+PT3 is larger than using PT2 alone when $\lambda = 0$. Empirically, we observe that the error obtained at the midpoint $\lambda = 1/2$ is always improved over that obtained with $\lambda = 0$. Hence, in the following, we will use this simple choice in addition to the two obvious choices $\lambda = 0$ and $\lambda = 1$.

2.3 Splitting the first order wavefunction

In general, for large numbers of orbitals, the bond dimension M_1 required to achieve a given accuracy increases with K . Thus, the dominant scaling when solving for the first-order wavefunction is dominated by the scaling $O(K^2M_1^3)$ encountered when computing the LHS

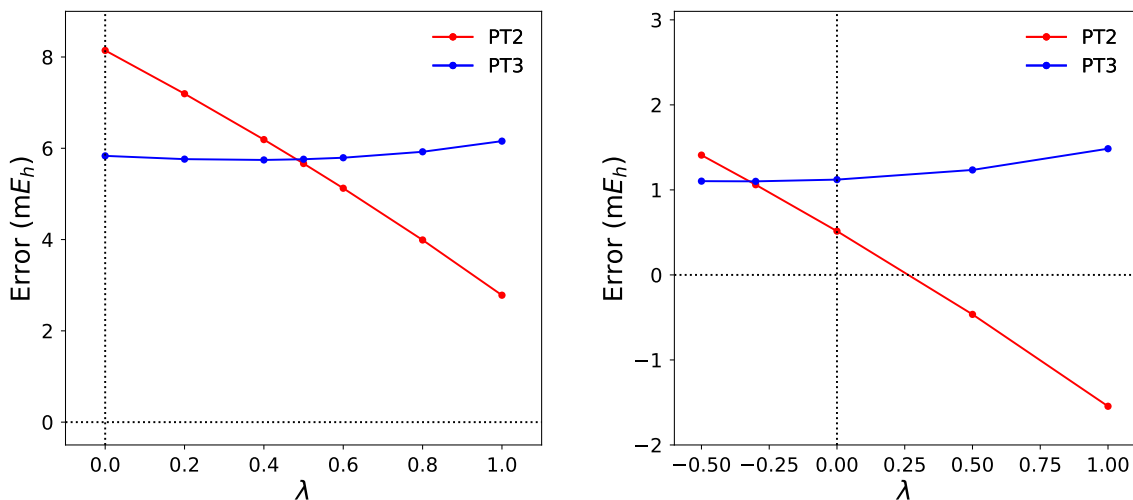
(a) H_{10} (b) H_2O

Figure 1: Dependence of the absolute errors of second- and third-order perturbation energy corrections on $E_0(\lambda) = (1 - \lambda)E_{DMRG}^{(0)} + \lambda E_d^{(0)}$: (a) H_{10} with $R(H-H)=1.0\text{\AA}$ and $M_0=12$ in a STO-3G basis; (b) H_2O at the equilibrium geometry and $M_0=10$ in DZ basis.

of Eq. (9). A similar computational obstacle arises also in SCI+PT, which gives rise to the memory bottleneck associated with storing all determinants contributing to the first-order wavefunction. One way to remove this bottleneck is to use a stochastic computation of the perturbation correction, as proposed in^{31,32} for SCI+PT. In the current work, we will use a deterministic approach, where we represent the first-order wavefunction as a linear combination of MPS,⁴⁵ each with a modest bond dimension.

Specifically, noting that Eq. (9) is a linear equation, we use the following ansatz,

$$|\Psi^{(1)}\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^N |\Psi_i^{(1)}\rangle, \quad (12)$$

where each $|\Psi_i^{(1)}\rangle$ is represented by an MPS with a fixed bond dimension M_1 , and can be determined recursively from the relation

$$(\hat{H}_0 - E_0) |\Psi_i^{(1)}\rangle = |r_i\rangle, \quad |r_i\rangle = -Q\hat{H} |\Psi^{(0)}\rangle - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} (\hat{H}_0 - E_0) |\Psi_j^{(1)}\rangle. \quad (13)$$

The form of the LHS is the same for each i , but the RHS becomes more costly as N increases. When computed from the Hylleraas functional, the largest cost arises from computing the expectation value $\langle \Psi_i^{(1)} | (\hat{H}_0 - E_0) | \Psi_j^{(1)} \rangle$ ($i > j$) and this cost scales as $O(K^2 M_1^3 N^2)$. Thus, using the split ansatz (12), compared with a calculation using a large bond dimension $M'_1 = NM_1$, formally leads to a factor of N reduction in computational cost, as well as a factor of N^2 in memory. However, the representational power of an MPS with $M'_1 = NM_1$ is larger than that of a linear combination of N MPS with bond dimension M_1 due to the compressibility of the sum of MPS representation. For example, in the limiting case of $M_1 = 1$, Eq. (12) simply becomes a sum of N determinants, while the variational space described by MPS with bond dimension N is of course much larger. Thus, in practice, we try to use an M_1 as large as possible given the computational resources, and only then use Eq. (12) to continue the calculations to a larger effective M_1 , which would otherwise be too costly within a single MPS representation. The second order energy $E_2 = \langle \Psi^{(0)} | V | \Psi^{(1)} \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^N E_{2,i}$ becomes a sum of N terms, where $E_{2,i}$ decays monotonically as i increases. This monotonic decay can be quite systematic and we will explore the possibility to extrapolate the series $\{E_{2,i}\}_{i=1}^N$ for large calculations in Sec. 3.2.

3 Results

3.1 Benchmark: C₂ and Cr₂

To test the performance of p-DMRG for various choices of \hat{H}_0 , we examined two diatomic molecules: C₂ and Cr₂, for which variational DMRG results are available in the literature.⁸ The same molecules were also studied in recent Heat-Bath CI plus PT calculations.³⁰ For these two molecules, we used canonical Hartree-Fock orbitals with D_{2h} symmetry and ordered them using genetic ordering as used in Ref.⁸ The zeroth-order DMRG wavefunctions were computed in a default forward sweep where M_0 was increased gradually, using the BLOCK code.^{5,7}

Figure 2 shows the p-DMRG results for C_2 at the equilibrium bond length of 1.24253 Å in the cc-pVTZ basis set.⁴⁶ All electrons were correlated corresponding to an orbital space of (12e,60o). The absolute errors are given relative to the essentially exact variational DMRG value.⁸ The second order perturbation energies were calculated at an effective $M_1 = \infty$ by extrapolating with discarded weight from $M_1 = 5000, 4000, 3000$ in reverse sweep mode.⁸ We first note the significance of the perturbation correction: to compare the variational DMRG and p-DMRG calculations as a function of M_0 on the same plot, we had to divide the variational error by 5. We also see that in this dynamic correlation dominated system, the performance of the zeroth order Hamiltonian with $\lambda = 1$ is quite good. Using $E_{DMRG}^{(0)}$ as E_0 instead underestimates the correlation energy. $\lambda = 1/2$ also yields reasonable errors which reach chemical accuracy already for the very small variational DMRG calculation with $M_0 = 200$. We see that in the absence of intruder state problems, p-DMRG with different choices of λ all converge to the same ground state energy as M_0 increases, but the accuracy when M_0 is small can be quite different. For this reason, it is important to choose λ , such that one obtains good accuracy already with small M_0 , to obtain significant computational savings.

Next, we consider a more challenging example, Cr_2 , at three bond distances, $R=1.50\text{Å}$, which have been previously benchmarked by variational DMRG,⁸ the equilibrium bond length⁴⁷ $R=1.68\text{Å}$, and $R=2.20\text{Å}$. We used the Ahlrichs' SV basis set⁴⁸ and correlated all electrons. The resulting orbital space is (48e,42o). The second order perturbation energies were calculated at $M_1 = \infty$ by extrapolation from $M_1 = 8000, 7000, 6000$ (in reverse sweep mode). The p-DMRG results are shown in Figure 3. It is clear that Cr_2 is much more challenging than C_2 , since all the DMRG and p-DMRG errors for a given M_0 are larger than those for C_2 with the same M_0 . At the equilibrium geometry, using $E_d^{(0)}$ ($\lambda = 1$) in p-DMRG leads to relatively larger errors due to a near-intruder state, while at $R=1.50\text{Å}$, the second order energy is unphysically large. Using the midpoint energy $\lambda = 1/2$ as E_0 is a dramatic improvement compared with both $\lambda = 1$ and $\lambda = 0$ (the latter leads to an underestimation

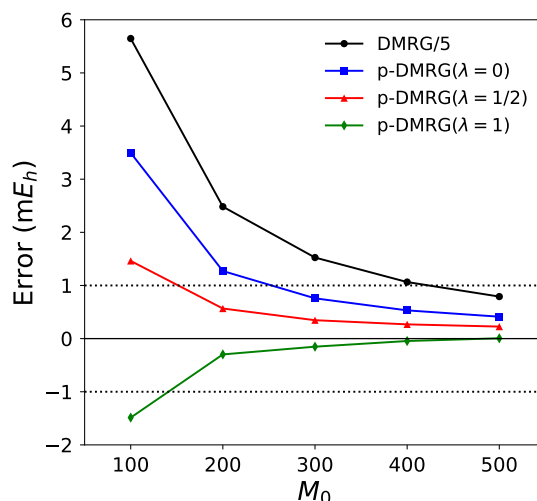


Figure 2: Absolute errors in zeroth-order DMRG energies $E_{DMRG}^{(0)}$ and perturbation corrections $E_{DMRG}^{(0)} + E_2(\lambda)$ with different \hat{H}_0 for C_2 at the equilibrium bond length of 1.24253 Å. The errors are calculated relative to the converged variational DMRG energy in Ref.⁸ The errors of zeroth-order DMRG energies are divided by 5 to put all curves into the same figure.

of the correlation energy). With M_0 equal to 300 or 400, the p-DMRG($\lambda = 1/2$) reaches chemical accuracy for $R=1.50\text{Å}$ and $R=1.68\text{Å}$, with the perturbation correction again providing a large improvement of the variational energy. For $R=2.20\text{Å}$, where the correlation is stronger, the p-DMRG with $\lambda = 1/2$ converges slower compared with the other two bond distances, but is still the best among different choices of λ investigated here. Thus, in the rest of this work, we always use $\lambda = 1/2$.

3.2 Cr_2 with (28e, 76o) orbital space

As a first example of a larger calculation, we study the ground state energy of Cr_2 at $R=1.68\text{Å}$ with the cc-pVDZ-DK basis set.⁴⁹ Scalar relativistic effects were included through the spin-free X2C Hamiltonian.^{50–53} We used natural orbitals obtained from a CASSCF with a (12e,12o) active space in the DMRG and p-DMRG calculations. The 1s, 2s and 2p natural orbitals were not included in the (p)-DMRG calculations, leading to an orbital space with (28e, 76o). The standard variational DMRG energies for Cr_2 and the Cr atom are shown in

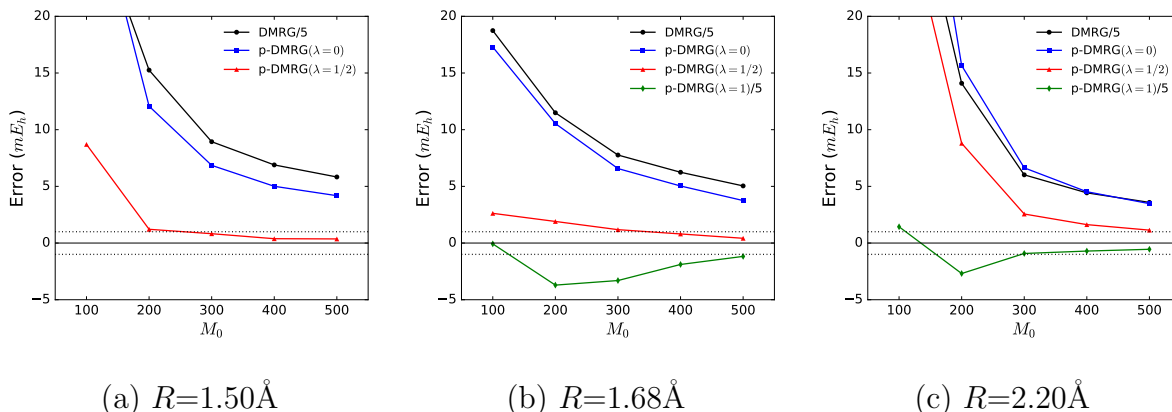


Figure 3: Absolute errors in zeroth-order DMRG energies $E_{DMRG}^{(0)}$ and perturbation corrections $E_{DMRG}^{(0)} + E_2(\lambda)$ with different \hat{H}_0 for Cr_2 . Both the errors of DMRG energies and p-DMRG($\lambda = 1$) were divided by 5 to fit all curves on the same figure. For $R=1.50\text{\AA}$, p-DMRG($\lambda = 1$) suffers from intruder state problems.

Table 1. P-DMRG energies for Cr_2 are shown in Table 2. As an empirical estimate,⁸ the extrapolation error bar in the variational DMRG is assigned as 1/5 of the difference between the extrapolation energy and the energy with the largest $M = 16000$.

Table 1: Energy ($E+2099$ in E_h) of Cr_2 obtained with standard variational DMRG in the cc-pVDZ-DK basis set. The extrapolated DMRG energy of Cr atom is $-1049.93254(4)E_h$.

M	8000	10000	12000	14000	16000	∞ (extrapolated)
E (default schedule)	-0.8957	-0.8991	-0.9024	-0.9047	-0.9061	-0.9195 ± 0.0027
E (reverse schedule)	-0.8980	-0.9015	-0.9040	-0.9058	-0.9071	-0.9192 ± 0.0024

As shown in Table 1, the standard variational DMRG energy converges very slowly with respect to M . Even at $M = 16000$, the variational DMRG energy is above the extrapolated energy by about $10mE_h$, while the DMRG energy at $M = 8000$ is about $20mE_h$ above. Similarly, unlike in the p-DMRG calculation with (48e,42o), it is hard to converge $|\Psi_1\rangle$ with respect to bond dimension using a single MPS. Thus, in this system we used the split ansatz (12) to represent $|\Psi_1\rangle$. We chose the bond dimension of each split MPS to be $M_1 = 7500$. In Table 2, the accumulated second-order perturbation energies, $E_2^{[i]} = \sum_{j=1}^i E_{2,j}$ for the sum of the first i first-order MPS, is shown for the first five terms in the split. We also see slow convergence, for example, at $M_0=3000$, adding an additional MPS in the sum only lowers

Table 2: Energy ($E+2099$ in E_h) of Cr_2 obtained with p-DMRG in the cc-pVDZ-DK basis set. $E_2^{[i]} = \sum_{j=1}^i E_{2,j}$ represents the accumulated second-order perturbation energy for the sum of the first i first-order MPS. $E_2^{(\infty)}$ represents the extrapolated energy for $M_1 = \infty$. The final extrapolated p-DMRG energy with respect to M_0 is $E_\infty = -2099.9201 E_h$.

M_0	1000	2000	3000	4000
$E_{DMRG}^{(0)}$	-0.8346	-0.8617	-0.8743	-0.8818
$E_2^{[1]}$	-0.0607	-0.0323	-0.0196	-0.0130
$E_2^{[2]}$	-0.0652	-0.0371	-0.0243	-0.0173
$E_2^{[3]}$	-0.0671	-0.0396	-0.0268	-0.0195
$E_2^{[4]}$	-0.0682	-0.0409	-0.0282	-0.0209
$E_2^{[5]}$	-0.0690	-0.0418	-0.0293	-0.0219
$E_2^{[\infty]}$	-0.0734	-0.0492	-0.0386	-0.0323
$E_{DMRG}^{(0)} + E_2^{[\infty]}$	-0.9080	-0.9109	-0.9129	-0.9141
Δ_2/Δ_0^a	0.141	0.157	0.157	0.157

^a $\Delta_0 = E_{DMRG}^{(0)} - E_\infty$, $\Delta_2 = E_{DMRG}^{(0)} + E_2^{[\infty]} - E_\infty$.

the energy by about $1mE_h$ (after the second term in the sum). In fact, we found that even after summing over 10 MPS (when $M_0=3000$), the change in E_2 for each subsequent MPS was as large as $0.3mE_h$. Thus, extrapolation is also needed to estimate a converged E_2 .

To carry out the extrapolation, we used the linear relation between $\ln |\delta E|$ and $(\ln M)^2$ described in Refs.^{5,54} Figure 4 shows the accumulated energies $E_2(M = NM_1) \triangleq E_2^{[N]}$ as a function of $(\ln M)^2$ as well as the fitted curves $E_2(M) = E_2^{[\infty]} + Ae^{-\kappa(\ln M)^2}$ using the first 5 (red solid) and 10 (blue dashed) points. We see that using the first 5 points is sufficient to obtain a good extrapolation. The extrapolated $E_2^{[\infty]}$ from 5 points is $-0.03861E_h$, which differs from that using 10 points ($-0.03845E_h$) by only $0.16mE_h$. Using such an extrapolation leads to substantial computational savings. The full set of extrapolated results $E_2^{[\infty]}$ are listed in Table 2. It is notable that the p-DMRG energy at $M_0 = 1000$ with the first five basis functions, $E_{DMRG}^{[0]} + E_2^{[5]}$, is $-0.9036E_h$, which is already close to the variational DMRG result with $M_0 = 12000$. Using the extrapolated E_2 , the p-DMRG energies with every M_0 are lower than the variational DMRG results with $M=12000$, the largest M used.

To obtain a fully converged energy, we further need to extrapolate the variational bond dimension $M_0 \rightarrow \infty$. The need for two extrapolations are similar to the dual extrapolation

in the original Heat-bath CI+PT,³⁰ where one extrapolation is for the exact PT2 energy, while the other is to extrapolate the CI energy to zero selection threshold. To carry out this second extrapolation, we observe that the ratio Δ_2/Δ_0 where $\Delta_2 = E_{DMRG}^{(0)} + E_2^{[\infty]} - E_\infty$ and $\Delta_0 = E_{DMRG}^{(0)} - E_\infty$ is almost perfectly constant for different M_0 , as seen Table 2. This relation allows us to estimate E_∞ . The estimated E_∞ , using the largest three M_0 , is $-2099.9201E_h$, which is in agreement with the extrapolated variational DMRG results to within $1mE_h$, and within the extrapolation error bars. Compared to the atomic energies, we obtain a binding energy at this geometry of 1.50 eV, which is in fortuitously good agreement with the experimental value of 1.47 eV.⁵⁵ This demonstrates how, in practice, p-DMRG can be used as a cheaper alternative to variational DMRG to estimate an exact ground state energy even in a fairly complicated system.

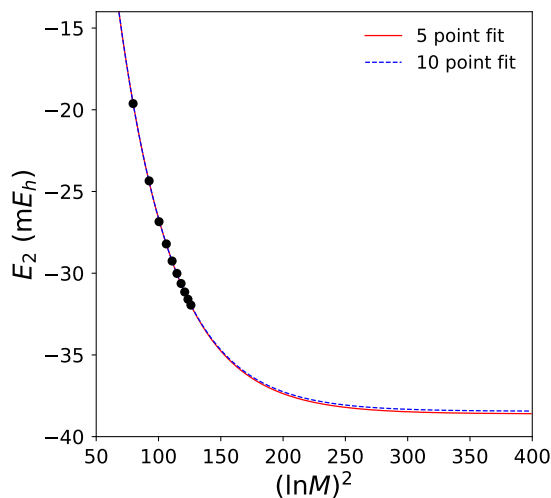


Figure 4: The accumulated energies $E_2(M = NM_1) \triangleq E_2^{[N]}$ as a function of $(\ln M)^2$ and the fitted curves $E_2(M) = E_2^{[\infty]} + Ae^{-\kappa(\ln M)^2}$ using the first 5 (red solid) and 10 (blue dashed) splitting functions for $M_0=3000$ and $M_1=7500$.

3.3 Butadiene with (22e, 82o) active space

The final system we consider is 1,3-butadiene. This system has been studied by many accurate methods including high-order coupled cluster theory,⁵⁶ initiator full configuration

interaction quantum Monte Carlo (*i*-FCIQMC)^{57,58} and stochastic heat-bath CI (SHCI).⁵⁹ Benchmark energies have been reported using variational DMRG.⁸ We used the same basis ANO-L-VDZP[3s2p1d]/[2s1p]⁶⁰ as used in previous studies.^{8,56,57,59} All electrons except for a frozen 1s core were correlated, leading to an orbital space with (22e, 82o). We used split-localized canonical orbitals for the p-DMRG calculations, ordered by genetic ordering.⁸ In the p-DMRG calculations, the first order MPS was split into five parts and each part had a bond dimension $M_1 = 3000$. We used the same extrapolation procedures as used for Cr₂ in the previous section. The computed energies are shown in Table 3. Due to the prohibitive computational cost, the extrapolated variational DMRG was not reported in Ref.⁸ However, it can be seen that $E_{DMRG}^{(0)} + E_2^{[\infty]}$ for $M_0 = 2000$ is already lower than the variational DMRG energy for $M = 6000$. Thus, we expect the exact ground state energy should be even lower. Further using extrapolation for M_0 , we obtain an estimated exact energy of $-155.557567E_h$, which is lower than the $M_0 = 2000$ p-DMRG energy by only $0.25mE_h$. A similar extrapolation using the previous DMRG energies gives $-155.5578E_h$, which is consistent with the extrapolated p-DMRG energy. The very recent HCI+PT⁵⁹ and FCIQMC⁵⁸ results are also within $1mE_h$ compared with the extrapolated variational DMRG and p-DMRG energies. Thus, we expect the extrapolated p-DMRG energy to be very close to the exact ground state energy, and at least within chemical accuracy.

4 Conclusion

In this work, we defined a p-DMRG method that uses perturbation theory within the DMRG framework to efficiently target exact energies in large orbital spaces where not all orbitals are strongly correlated. Using a carefully defined zeroth order Hamiltonian, and with extrapolation procedures, we found that p-DMRG can indeed provide benchmark quality energies as accurate as those obtained in far more expensive standard variational DMRG calculation. Future work will be carried out to perform benchmark studies using p-DMRG for the kinds

Table 3: Energy ($E+155$ in E_h) of butadiene with (22e,82o) active space.

DMRG-PT			
M_0	$E_{DMRG}^{(0)}$	$E_{DMRG}^{(0)} + E_2^{[\infty]}$	Δ_2/Δ_0^a
500	-0.552593 ^b	-0.556038	0.308
1000	-0.555438 ^b	-0.556887	0.319
2000	-0.556713 ^b	-0.557318	0.292
∞		-0.557567	
$M = 4000^c$		-0.556874	
$M = 5000^c$		-0.557050	
$M = 6000^c$		-0.557178	
$M = \infty^c$		-0.5578	
CCSD(T) ^d		-0.555002	
CCSDT ^d		-0.555959	
<i>i</i> -FCIQMC ^e		-0.5491(4)	
<i>i</i> -FCIQMC ^f		-0.5578(10)	
SHCI ^g		-0.5582(1)	

^a $\Delta_0 = E_{DMRG}^{(0)} - E_\infty$, $\Delta_2 = E_{DMRG}^{(0)} + E_2^{[\infty]} - E_\infty$.

^b The zeroth-order DMRG energies are slightly different from the previous DMRG energies in Ref. 8 due to the use of different orbitals and optimization schedules. Split-localized canonical orbitals were used in this work, and $E_{DMRG}^{(0)}$ are for converged one-site MPS calculations without any noise.

^c DMRG results from Ref. 8. The extrapolation is performed based on $E(M) = E^{[\infty]} + Ae^{-\kappa(\ln M)^2}$.

^d Ref. 56.

^e Ref. 57.

^f Ref. 58. Perturbation correction was used based on FCIQMC.

^g Ref. 59.

of strongly correlated problems where there are a large number of intermediately correlated, as well as strongly correlated orbitals, and which currently lie beyond the capabilities of the practical variational DMRG calculations.

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